

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 557 advances. LB 387.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 387 was offered by Senator Schmit. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on the 18th of January. It was referred to the Public Works Committee. I do have Public Works Committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the committee amendment strikes four words, "executed by a lender", from the bill. The reason for striking those four words is that the purpose of the bill is to allow the Conservation Corporation to make a direct loan to a subdivision of government, therefore the language is unnecessary and should not be included in the bill. I move for the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? If not, the question is, shall the committee amendments be adopted? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments to LB 387, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Back to the bill, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the Conservation Corporation was created several years ago as a method of financing conservation practices on the farms. Unfortunately at the time that it was created we entered into this period of very poor financial conditions and it hasn't been used a great deal, but the bill we have here today expands the authority in order to allow the Conservation Corporation to make direct loans to a subdivision of government without having to go through a lender. It also allows them to pool the requests for several funding obligations so as to get a more favorable loan rate. For example, an NRD might want to